

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A staple legs bending mechanism comprising:

a driver that moves a staple formed in the C-shape in a thickness direction of sheets of paper to be stapled and drives both legs of the staple into the sheets of paper from an obverse side of the sheets of paper;

a clincher holder arranged on a reverse side of the sheets of paper to be stapled;

a pair of clinchers, rotatably held by the clincher holder, for bending the ~~both~~ legs of the staple along the ~~back-surface~~ reverse side of the sheets of paper to be stapled by a rotational movement; and

a clincher actuating member that moves in cooperation with a movement of the driver and rotates the clinchers,

wherein ~~a height of upper surfaces of the clinchers in a moving direction of the clincher actuating member is smaller~~ are positioned lower than a height of an upper surface of the clincher holder when the clincher actuating member is positioned in a top dead center position, so as to prevent the clincher from protruding ~~from~~ beyond the clincher holder to the sheets of paper side when the ~~both~~ legs of the staple are bent along the ~~back-surface~~ reverse side of the sheets of paper.

Claim 2 (Original): The staple legs bending mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising:

a stopper that is formed on the clincher holder and comes into contact with the clincher actuating member.

Claim 3 (Original): The staple legs bending mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the height of the clincher holder includes a thickness of a table.

Claim 4 (Original): The staple legs bending mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the clincher actuating member includes a block-shaped member.

Claim 5 (Original): The staple legs bending mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the clincher actuating member comprises a pair of cam members respectively provided for the pair of clinchers.

Claim 6 (New): A staple legs bending mechanism comprising:
a driver that moves a staple formed in a C-shape in a thickness direction of sheets of paper to be stapled, and drives both legs of the staple into the sheets of paper from an obverse side of the sheets of paper;

a clincher holder arranged on a reverse side of the sheets of paper to be stapled;

a pair of clinchers, rotatably held by the clincher holder, for bending the legs of the staple along the reverse side of the sheets of paper to be stapled by a rotational movement;

a clincher actuating member that moves in cooperation with a movement of the driver and rotates the clinchers; and

a stopper that is formed on the clincher holder and comes into contact with the clincher actuating member, so as to prevent the clincher from protruding from beyond the clincher holder to the sheets of paper when the legs of the staple are bent along the reverse side of the sheets of paper.